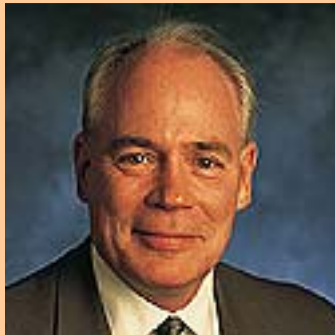




ProgressIndiana

Region 1

Bi-Monthly Newsletter of the Indiana Department of Commerce
Region 1 Lake, Potter, Newton, Jasper



**Message from Indiana
Department of Commerce
Executive Director
Tim Monger**

Since our last *Progress Indiana* update in May, we have welcomed 11 new businesses to the state that will bring 1,478 new jobs and \$525,524,933 in investment. We also conducted 670 business development outreach meetings with CEOs statewide (http://www.in.gov/doc/news/news_releases/PDFs/04-06-29Reg8.pdf); unveiled new certified technology parks (http://www.in.gov/doc/news/news_releases/PDFs/04-06-29Evansville.pdf); initiated a promotional program for Indiana companies; created an office solely for the advocacy of small businesses; hired a professional to take our state's telecommunications to the next level; made more than \$6.3 million available in grants for rural communities, and a hit a record high in first-quarter exports (http://www.in.gov/doc/news/news_releases/PDFs/04-06-18Export.pdf).

These are just a few examples of results from our aggressive steps to move our state forward.

I encourage you to read more of our activity in each of our regions' newsletters by selecting an area of the state on the regional map. As with each issue, we will focus on events, announcements, and Commerce programs and activities across the state.

This issue, take note of our business development resources including tax credits, workforce development training initiatives, energy, tourism, international trade activities and more by going to: <http://www.in.gov/doc/businesses/index.html>. Related business development programs are highlighted in

Message from Region 1 Director Cynthia Pruitt

There has been a change in leadership in the Region 1 office. On June 14, I assumed the role of acting regional director for Jasper, Lake, Newton and Potter counties and on July 23, I was named director. Go to:

http://www.in.gov/doc/news/news_releases/PDFs/04-07-23Pruitt.pdf To read the press release.

I am excited about the opportunity to serve as the current leader of the Region 1 office. I would like to thank my predecessor, John P. Kennedy, for a job well done. Over the past 18 months, John performed a tremendous job of coordinating and directing activities for the region and I wish him the best in future endeavors.

I was born, raised and educated in Gary, Ind. I received both undergraduate and graduate degrees in public affairs from Indiana University Northwest.

I am proud to be a Northwest Indiana resident. This area is loaded with amenities others can only dream about. We can all be proud of the growth and development of Gary/Chicago International Airport, the Port of Indiana, the Dunes National Lakeshore, and the continued growth of the agriculture and dairy industries.

Just as the economic climate of our state changes, the vast array of programs and services offered by the Indiana Department of Commerce must also change. In 2003, under the leadership of the late Gov. Frank O'Bannon and then Lt. Gov. Joe Kernan, the Indiana General Assembly passed Energize Indiana, a dynamic economic development stimulus package.

Last summer, Region 1 hosted an Energize Indiana forum that was led by Gov. Kernan and included representatives from five other state agencies who promoted the \$1 billion package passed by the Indiana General Assembly. Energize Indiana was designed to stimulate Indiana's economy through tax restructuring, investments in research and technology, education, rural communities and incentives for businesses to create jobs for Hoosiers.

This year Commerce is conducting the Energize Indiana 2 Go Blitz. The statewide goal is to inform 1,000 Indiana businesses face-to-face about Commerce programs and resources.

Hats off to the local economic development organizations of Region 1 for a very successful three-day blitz in mid-May. The

our regional news sections.

We want this newsletter to be a resource for the growth and development of your company or community. If there is any information you would like to see in the newsletters, please send an e-mail to commercenewsletters@commerce.in.gov.

David Dorff named as head of the Office of Small Business Advocacy

FULL STORY:

<http://www.in.gov/serv/presscal?PF=gov&Clist=4&Elist=81379>

See related initiatives impacting small businesses including workforce development, health care expenses and regulatory relief at:

http://www.knownolimits.biz/ldoc/july_august/Workforce_training.pdf

http://www.knownolimits.biz/ldoc/july_august/Health_care.pdf

http://www.knownolimits.biz/ldoc/july_august/REGULATORY_RELIEF.pdf

New Grant Programs to Stimulate Economic Development

FULL STORY:

http://www.in.gov/doc/news/news_releases/PDFs/04-06-30IRDC.pdf

Broadband Conference Slated for September

For more information, go to:

<http://www.in.gov/doc/highspeedcommunication/>

Christine Fulford named as high-speed communications director for the Indiana Department of Commerce

FULL STORY:

http://www.in.gov/doc/news/news_releases/PDFs/04-07-08Fulford.pdf

Gov. Joe Kernan unveils "Buy Indiana" Web site

For more information on the program and to register, go to www.opportunityindiana.in.gov.

Microenterprise Partnership Program makes grants available to community organizations

For more information on the program, go to

<http://www.iedc.org/>.

LEDOs were charged with identifying manufacturing and distribution businesses that could benefit from Commerce programs and resources. LEDOs teamed up with a Commerce staff person and together visited over 60 businesses in Region 1, promoting state economic development tools and surveying companies about future industry needs. The meeting enhanced our relationship with the businesses and gave us a better understanding of their needs. I want to thank the LEDOs and NIPSCO for their support of the blitz activities as well.

As we continue to work together for the enrichment of Region 1, our office remains committed to providing opportunities and resources for the citizens, communities and businesses we serve. If this means constantly reviewing and upgrading our programs, we want you to know we are ready and willing to change.

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REGION 1 AT A GLANCE

Kernan Announces New Jobs, \$2 Million Investment by Feralloy in Northwest Indiana

Gov. Joe Kernan joined officials from Feralloy Corp. in Portage to announce the addition of 30 to 50 new jobs to its local workforce and a \$2 million expansion at the Port of Indiana-Burns Harbor.

FULL STORY:

http://www.knownolimits.biz/ldoc/july_august/KernanFeralloy.pdf

Hooters Takes Flight from Gary/Chicago International Airport

USA Today recently featured the new Hooters Air of America airline service which is located at the Gary/Chicago International Airport. The airline specializes in flights from Gary to Myrtle Beach, SC.

FULL STORY:

http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2004-06-11-hooters_x.htm

Skills Enhancement Fund Provides Financial Assistance for Workforce Training

Indiana's Skills Enhancement Fund (SEF) is designed to provide financial assistance to existing, new and expanding businesses committed to training their workforce. Trainees must be Indiana residents. Companies can receive reimbursement up to \$200,000 for retraining existing workers. Supplemental grant awards may be available for training new employees. For more information on SEF go to <http://www.in.gov/doc/skills2016/skills/>.

Congratulations to Award Winners in Region 1

Neighborhood Assistance Program

Five Region 1 Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP) applicants received a total of \$156,111 in tax credits

(http://www.in.gov/doc/news/news_releases/PDFs/04-07-12NAP.pdf).

Those included: Boys & Girls Clubs of Porter County, Youth Recreational Facility; Caring Place Inc., Domestic Violence

Shelter/Counseling Services; Christian Community Action of Porter County, Emergency Shelter and Counseling Services; Hilltop Community Health Center, Healthcare Services; and Hilltop Neighborhood House, Child Care Services (Porter).

REGION 1 CALENDAR

Monthly, LEDO meetings are held every third Wednesday. The meetings are in partnership with NIPSCO, NWI Forum and Commerce, 10:00 a.m. to noon.

Aug. 2, U.S. Senator Evan Bayh Job Fair, Job Training & Business Summit will be held at The Center, Purdue Calumet in Hammond. For more information contact The Center at 219.989.3136.

Aug. 10, Small Business Summit & Minority and Women Business Enterprise Summit. View the agenda at:
http://www.knownolimits.biz/ldoc/july_august/LGsummitPlanforDay-External.pdf

Sept. 13, Broadband Conference at Ball State University. For more information, go to <http://www.in.gov/doc/highspeedcommunication/>

Sept. 17, Quality of Place applications are due. Go to www.in.gov/tourism/ for more information.

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